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# Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /082 W
----------200239Z 018319 /73
R 191530Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5700
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MPAUTO 0429

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH, UK
SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS ON VISIT OF FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: MAPUTO 390

1. SUMMARY: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS COVERAGE OF FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN'S NINE DAY SWING THROUGH SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS FACTUAL AND STRAIGHTFORWARD. LOCALLY WRITTEN STORIES WERE REMARKABLY FREE OF HOSTILE RHETORIC, ALTHOUGH PRESS DID REPORT NEGATIVE STORIES GENERATED IN OTHER COUNTRIES. PRESS CARRIED NO EDITORIALS AND NO STATEMENTS BY MOZAMBIQUE OFFICIALS ABOUT TRIP. END SUMMARY

2. VISIT OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN TO SOUTHERN AFRICA RECEIVED DAILY FRONT AND/OR BACK PAGE COVERAGE IN MOZAMBIQUE PRESS. FOR MOST PART, COVERAGE WAS FACTUAL AND STRAIGHT-
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FORWARD. LOCALLY WRITTEN ARTICLES WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY FREE OF THE GRATUITOUS "ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND ANTI-CAPITALIST" COMMENTS WHICH GENERALLY CHARACTERIZE STORIES ABOUT ANGLO-AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA. ONLY NEGATIVE REMARKS ABOUT TRIP WERE ACCOUNTS OF CRITICISM GENERATED AT OTHER AFRICAN STOPS. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESS REPORTED STATEMENTS BY ROBERT MUGABE IN DAR EXPRESSING SKEPTISM ABOUT CURRENT BRITISH INITIA-

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TIVE AND ZAMBIAN DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL IMPLYING THAT OWEN VISIT WAS ANOTHER IMPERIALIST MANEUVER DESIGNED TO TURN POWER IN RHODESIA OVER TO IMPERIALIST PUPPETS.

3. THERE WERE NO EDITORIALS ABOUT OWEN VISIT AND NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT VISIT BY MOZAMBIQUE OFFICIALS.

4. COMMENT: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS IS UNDER THUMB OF GOVERNMENT AND GENERALLY GOES ALL OUT TO COLOR EVENTS THE WAY THE FRELIMO WANTS THEM COLORED. FACT THAT PRESS WAS RESTRAINED DURING OWEN VISIT MAY REFLECT WILLINGNESS ON PART OF FRELIMO LEADERSHIP TO GIVE NEW BRITISH INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA A CHANCE, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT DOES NOT CALL FOR "PREMATURE" CESSATION OF GUERRILLA STRUGGLE.
DE PREE

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# Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:**
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, MZ, RH, UK, (OWEN, DAVID)
**To:** STATE
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**Review Markings:**
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